Integrated telecom players

1337. SHRI N.K. SINGH:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecom has issued notices to all integrated telecom players to conduct special audits of their accounts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has received complaints against some of them accusing them of shifting their revenues earned from access services to revenues from long distance services; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and action contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Department of Telecommunications has issued notices to only four integrated telecom players to conduct special audits of their accounts namely-Reliance Communications, Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Essar and Idea Cellular. Notice to M/s Tata teleservices is under issue.

(c) Government has received a reference from Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) against Bharti Airtel in this regard.

(d) This issue has been included in Special Audit. Necessary action, if required, will be taken after receipt of the Special Audit Report.

Release of 5 MHz of 2G spectrum

1338. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that his Ministry has agreed to release some 5 MHz of 2G spectrum for commercial purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) in what manner his Ministry is planning to allot the above spectrum for commercial use;

(d) whether it is true that his Ministry has entered into an agreement with the Defence Ministry for release of spectrum in 2G and 3G bands;

(e) if so, the details thereon; and

(f) whether there would be any significant impact either on the industry or consumer since the release of spectrum of 2G is only marginal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Communications and IT. As per the MOU, Ministry of Defence will release spectrum for 2G and 3G services in steps from the date of signing of MOU till the completion of an exclusive, dedicated OFC network for Armed Forces.

As soon as the 2G spectrum is released by Defence the same would be allotted to the telecom operators. The initial/start up spectrum is allotted on the basis of Unified Access Service License (UASL) agreement. Additional spectrum beyond initial spectrum is allotted on the basis of subscriber based criteria formulated from time to time.

(f) The additional spectrum to the existing operators when allotted, subject to the availability in multiples of 1MHz, as per the guidelines in forces, shall make some impact on the 'Quality of Service' (QoS) by 2G service providers.

Open standard formats

1339. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Government order issued to use open standard formats for official communication and web interfaces;

(b) if so, the departments that has implemented it; and

(c) if not, Government's stand on using open standard formats in Government offices and institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Open Standards help building e-Governance solution that are interoperable. However, it is a very contentious matter and requires wider consultations with Industry, academia and other stakeholders.

Competition in telecom services

1340. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether DoT turned BSNL completed transition with introduction of competition in Telecom Services;

(b) if so, how far service delivery has improved in so far as rate of growth of number of connections of each category both landline and mobile as also value added services;